

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 8 November 2016

Present:

Professor Martina Hennessy, Associate Dean of Research (ADoRMH),
Chair

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú, Director of Research, School of Histories
and Humanities

Professor Roja Fazaeli, Director of School of Languages Literatures &
Cultural Studies

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director of Research, School of Linguistic,
Speech and Communication Sciences

Professor Fiona Newell, substituting for Director of Research, School
of Psychology

Professor Peter Stone substituting for Director of Research, School of
Social Sciences and Philosophy

Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work
and Social Policy

Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science

Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry
and Immunology

Professor Doug Leith, Director of Research, School of Computer
Science and Statistics

Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dentistry

Professor Seamus Donnelly, Director of Research, School of Medicine

Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub

Professor Orla Sheils, Director, TTMI

Mr Shane Collins, President, Graduate Students Union

Dr Jose Sanchez Morgado (for item RS/16-17/12)

Mr Kevin Kiely (for item RS/16-17/13)

Dr Fiona Killard (for item RS/16-17/13)

In attendance:

Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research
and Innovation

Mr David O'Shea, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services
Division

Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT
Services

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian, Library

Dr Oonagh Kinsman, Trinity Research and Innovation, Rapporteur to
the Committee

Apologies:

Professor John Boland, Dean of Research (DoR)
 Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film and Music
 Professor Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English
 Professor Mark Bell, Director of Research, School of Law
 Professor Gaia Narcisco, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
 Professor Jacob Erickson, Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
 Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
 Professor Luiz Da Silva, Director of Research, School of Engineering
 Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
 Professor Sergey Frolov, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
 Professor Geralyn Hynes, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
 Professor Orla Hardiman, Director, TBSI
 Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, Director of Trinity Research and Innovation

Not present:

Professor Peter Gallagher, Associate Dean of Research (ADoRPG)
 Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
 Professor Stephen Minton, Director of Research, School of Education
 Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
 Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director, CRANN
 Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director, TCIN
 Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies
 Mr Michael Cooke, Acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association

Actions arising / on-going:

Agenda Item	Owner	Action	Status
RS/15-16/50	Dean of Research and review working group	Progression in implementing Measuring Research Productivity and Excellence	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/49	Dean of Research	Feedback on progress with Research Career Framework policy from Tony McMahon	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/57	Dean of Research	Seek information on number of PhD students paying EU and non-EU fees and the source of funding	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/62	Associate Dean of Research	Report to the Research Committee with policies on biobanking, data retention and stem cells	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/64	Directors of Research	New submissions for the Dean of Research annual report by the 1 December 2016	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/04	Directors of Research	All Overhead analysis and justification plans to be submitted by 1 December 2016	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/07	Dean of Research	Await revised ethical review fees structure from JREC.	<i>In progress</i>

RS/16-17/10	Dean of Research	Feedback any information on SFI research integrity audits	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/10	Dean of Research	Invite the Librarian and the Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services to present on the subject of open data and data management.	
RS/16-17/12	DoR	Comparative Medicine Unit to provide a summary of planned activity for increased openness and information on similar activities planned in other Irish universities.	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/13	DoR	PIQA tool: Clarification will be sought on the levels of access to non-anonymised data and to investigate the potential for PIs to view their own data without reference to the anonymised data of others. The use of Scopus would be investigated.	<i>In progress</i>

RS/16-17/09 Matters arising from the minutes

Research Quality Metrics Productivity and Review group will continue to meet and review progress with implementation of the metrics. A status update should be sent to the DoR. The Ussher metrics were complete for all Faculties. The Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities described some difficulties with implementation. Analysis relies on correct information on RSS and if this is incomplete or inaccurate then significant cleaning of data is needed. Some researchers who were considered to be excellent did not get full credit because of missing information. With further discussion in the Faculty and optimisation and harmonisation the system will improve. The Director of Research in the School of Medicine expressed concerns with the data on RSS from the School of Medicine and the lack of understanding within the PI community. Setting up ORCID IDs provided some success. Although the Library has some resources to assist The Director of Research in each School has some responsibility to ensure School data is as good as possible. (RS15-16/63)

Tony McMahon is representing Trinity and leading the progression of Research Career Framework policy document (RS/15-16/49)

The Research Ethics Policy Committee will meet shortly to discuss a policy document on the use of stem cells. (RS/15-16/62)

The overhead analysis and justification submission deadline was extended to the 1 December 2016. No report is needed from areas where no SFI overheads were used. The Directors of Research emphasised that this was a matter for the Heads of Schools and that it would be useful for time for Heads of Schools to meet to discuss between Schools and as the regular Heads of Schools meeting had not taken place this term yet there was no organised forum for discussion. (RS/16-17/04)

Discussions were ongoing with the JREC on fees for ethical approval for non-sponsored research. The JREC administration is part funded by St James Hospital and part funded by AMNCH Hospital. Fees have been in abeyance since September for non-sponsored work while the matter is being reassessed. It is likely that a fee of €100 will be charged subject

to funding being available. Fees for commercially sponsored research will continue to be charged. (RS/16-17/07)

Revised ranking from the Times Higher Education World University Rankings will be provided by the end of the year. Significant dialogue has taken place with this institution. (RS/16-17/03)

Further discussions on PRTL have taken place. It is likely that the funding will be split into smaller tranches. The first tranche may only be €34 million in total for all eligible institutions. How this will be allocated across different activities is not known. The Director of the Long Room Hub had no further information. The DoR was attending a Dail committee on the subject. (RS/16-17/03)

RS/16-17/10 Update from the Associate Dean of Research

SFI has proposed to undertake Research Integrity Audits. The IUA is seeking clarity of what this entails. A project may have to undergo self-assessment. Data integrity may be the first aspect to be investigated. The DoR will feedback any details via the IUA. The Research Integrity Office in the UK will be asked for their experiences of self-assessment.

Action: The DoR will feedback any information on proposed SFI research integrity audits via the IUA.

The Research Development Office recently held a workshop on aspects of open data and data management with a speaker from the Digital Curation Centre in Glasgow and input from the Librarian and the Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services. The message was that although the European Commission is promoting open data it should be considered 'as open as possible and as closed as necessary'. Irish state funders are likely to be following the European Commission's lead for open data. It was suggested that the internal speakers would present to the Research Committee.

Action: The Librarian and the Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Service to present on the subject of open data and data management at the Research Committee.

RS/16-17/11 Trinity Research Institutes Operation and Added Value

A document on the role and sustainability of Trinity Research Institutes was circulated from the DoR which sought to clarify the relationship between partner Schools, to reduce tensions around resources and to detail added value especially the capacity to recruit talent.

The Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub commented that the Directors of TRIs had not had a chance to comment on this draft before circulation. She requested that the wording 'directly drive non-EU and post graduate fee income and philanthropy' be removed as this is driven by constituent Schools and not TRIs. She noted that the Long Room Hub had 9 member Schools and the Library. Overheads were an issue and although the policy of sharing overheads, the levels of overheads were often low or

non-existent which affected sustainability and services provided by the TRI. The reputational benefit was acknowledged. The Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities emphasised that one size fits all was not appropriate for the variety of TRIs as the income sources specified were not applicable to all. The Director of the Trinity Translational Medicine commented that the School of Medicine was the primary School in negotiation and that care has to be taken not to jeopardise the relationship and that both parties feed into research strategy development. The Director of Research, School of Psychology noted that it can cause imbalances in some Schools eg the School of Psychology. Although the specific research area of the TRIs are of benefit in getting research funding the School still needs to deliver on its more general discipline focus. The Librarian asked how the review of research themes and research strategies fitted with School and TRI research strategies especially in the development of a new strategic plan. The Manager of the Research Development Office noted that the themes strategic priorities allowed for wider interdisciplinary approaches.

RS/16-17/12 ILSA position statement on increased openness in animal research

Dr Jose Sanchez Morgado reviewed the Comparative Medicine Unit which operated over 4 sites. He explained that they already give lectures to transition year students twice a year and are working with the Communications Office to create a web site with appropriate content. This is to counteract the negative views and misleading facts that journalists may promote. They already have to provide information under Freedom of Information where the information requested is very narrow and may be requested for sensationalist value and are not interested in the scientific impact and more importantly the public benefit.

Several committee members expressed concern taking into account the past problems in the UK and how companies and academic centres were adversely affected. Dr Sanchez Morgado replied that since 2007 the extreme targeting has reduced in the UK. This has been in part due to use of anti-terrorism laws but also an attempt to promote rational views and provide more information.

The Librarian suggested that Tom Molloy, the Director of Public Affairs and Communications be involved in the discussions of external web site content. The Director of Research, School of Medicine asked if there could be an all university approach eg using a template of types of acceptable information so that Trinity was not the sole provider of such information. The Manager of the Research Development Office noted that ethical approval was needed and communication of the message of impact and public benefit may be also addressed by individual PIs in their request for funding. The Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences noted that definitions may also include invertebrates and octopuses for example.

Dr Sanchez Morgado gave examples of the Freedom of Information requests and also noted that the HPR is also subject to Freedom of Information requests which includes reports of institutional activity.

It was suggested that the Comparative Medicine Unit provide a summary of planned activity for increased openness over the coming months and information on similar activities planned in other Irish universities.

Action: Comparative Medicine Unit to provide to the DoR a summary of planned activity for increased openness over the coming months and information on similar activities planned in other Irish universities.

RS/16-17/13 Principal Investigator Quantitative Analysis (PIQA)

Kevin Kiely presented quantitative analytics which included publication data from Web of Science and grant data from RPAMS which was accessed via MyRSS. The data was provided at a School level and at an individual level. The grant data is representative of research funding activity but should not be seen as definitive financial data. The data shown included the number of grants submitted and awards between October 2012 and June 2016. The individual data for each PI would be viewable by the PI and in an anonymised format for PIs within the School. The School data and data for all PIs within a School would be viewable by Head of School or those delegated by the Head of School.

The Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities congratulated those involved on the amount of work completed. However he had concerns that false ranking was generated where inaccurate or incomplete data was used for some staff and it was not possible to check the data. His main concern was the motivation behind the generation of a tool that may prove divisive and work against the spirit of collegiality. The Director of Research, School of Pharmacy had concerns that the majority of academics were balancing curriculum delivery and development, administration and research and there are no balances measures or tools to measure productivity across the spectrum. She wanted to understand the motivation for the use of the presented quantitative analysis. The Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy thought that the tool was valuable but was concerned at its use in the future. He reported that such metrics were used in the UK in a very hard line way when assessing staff and he would like to see reassurances on the future use of such a tool. It was noted that Scopus was not used as this would be a better source of output data for some Schools and Faculties. Professor Peter Stone, substituting for the Director of Research, School of Social Science and Philosophy reiterated the concerns on future use and the bad experience of the Research Excellence Framework in the UK. The Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities proposed that the section of PIQA relating to league tables of individual performance be removed which was supported by some others and called for a vote however this was not routed via the chair and no formal vote was taken.

The Head of Strategic Research Initiatives explained that the tool should be used to start conversations in Schools and how the data is used is at the discretion of Schools. All the information is available from other sources but the tool just brings it together for analysis and visualisation. It was appreciated by a number of Directors of Research that analysis of data should be carried out. The Director of Research, Computer Science

and Statistics was concerned that the data be correct and that it was not possible to look at the underlying RPAMS data on an individual PI basis. The limitations of RPAMS means that co-PIs and multi-disciplinary projects are not well represented and that there appeared to be no scope to correct the data reflected in the tool.

The Director of Research, School of Pharmacy asked if the use of PIQA could be referred to the Research Ethics Policy Committee but the ADoR commented that it was not clear that such an issue would lie within the remit of the REPC.

Action: Clarification will be sought on the levels of access to non-anonymised data and to investigate the potential for PIs to view their own data without reference to the anonymised data of others. The use of Scopus would be investigated.

RS/16-17/14 AOB

None